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MS 2556



Paul Robeson



Paul Robeson

RECORDS EXCLUSIVELY FOR
COLUMBIA

Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho
By an' By - - - - - DB 2505
(Available on the 4th March)

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child
Nobody knows de trouble I've seen
DB 2491

*For details of new and further recordings by Paul Robeson see
the Columbia catalogue and Columbia Monthly Record Guide*



COLUMBIA GRAPHOPHONE COMPANY LIMITED, HAYES, MIDDLESEX

HAROLD FIELDING

presents

Paul Robeson

By arrangement with

COPPICUS & SCHANG INC.
COLUMBIA ARTISTS MANAGEMENT
NEW YORK CITY

assisted by

LAWRENCE BROWN

with

LIONEL BOWMAN

The Distinguished South African Pianist



Paul Robeson

THE critic of a newspaper has called Robeson a "Giant of Song". He is, indeed, not only a giant of song, but a giant of a man — just under 6 feet 4 inches in height, and weighing around 200 pounds.

To be an actor or singer — that was the question for Paul Robeson to decide. It was a case of "How happy could I be with either, were I other dear charmer away." Not being able to make a definite decision, Robeson accepted both, and as the future proved, has risen to enviable heights of fame.

The son of a New Jersey preacher, Robeson attended Rutgers College, winning honours in both the scholastic and athletic fields. Then came a course in law at Columbia; he holds degrees from both universities, as well as honorary degrees from several other American universities.

Other honours bestowed upon Robeson include the Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievement, awarded by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (1945); Gold Medal for best diction in the American Theatre, from the American Academy of Arts and Science (1944); Donaldson Award for best acting performance (1944); Abraham Lincoln Medal for most notable and distinguished services in human relations in New York City (1945).

During his studies at Columbia the fair charmers, Drama and Song, began their rival claims. Robeson was at the time not only going to law school but coaching a football team. In Harlem, where he lived, the Y.M.C.A. wanted a substitute for a play they were staging. On the opening night two friends of Eugene O'Neill's were in the audience and spotted him for a revival of O'Neill's play "Emperor Jones." Robeson was persuaded to play Brutus Jones and it was in this part that the Robeson singing voice was discovered. When Jones is lost in the jungle, he is supposed to whistle to keep up his spirits. Robeson's whistling, however, wasn't anything to write home about, so it was decided he would try singing a spiritual instead. The effect was sensational — so much so that Robeson found himself acclaimed as both singer and actor.

Two years later, in 1925, he made his first appearance as a concert singer in a recital held in New York's famous Greenwich Village. The emotional splendour of his magnificent bass-baritone held the throng spellbound. For his next concert, a long queue waited in a snowstorm, only to find the house sold out.

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Programme and Notes

Over the Mountains (Old English) - - - - - arr. Quilter

A charming air of 17th Century England in a modern setting. "Love will find a way" is the sentiment which it expresses with poetic variations.

L'Amour de Moi (Old French) - - - - - arr. Tiersot

"My love is enclosed within a little garden. 'Tis a garden of sweet loveliness, adorned with all summer flowers. In it I find delight, as much by day as by night. But sweeter still, is the slumber song of two nightingales."

O Isis and Osiris ("The Magic Flute") - - - - - Mozart

Prince Tamino, in love with Pamina, has promised to rescue the latter from the hands of Sarastro, High Priest of Isis. Sarastro, however, in truth a noble and lofty character, is holding Pamina to protect her from evil spirits. Upon learning of the love of the two young people for each other, he sings this prayer to the gods, Isis and Osiris, to grant the spirit of virtue and wisdom to them.

Creation Hymn - - - - - Beethoven

Of his seventy-four songs with piano accompaniment, this exalted paean of praise is perhaps the most popular and a broad, sustaining, majestic invocation. The text is taken from Psalm VIII.

PAUL ROBESON

Rhapsody in B minor, Op. 79, No. 1 - | - - - - - Brahms

Rhapsody in G minor, Op. 79, No. 2 - | - - - - -

LIONEL BOWMAN

Lord God of Abraham ("Elijah") - - - - - Mendelssohn

Among Mendelssohn's greatest works are his oratorios St. Paul and Elijah. "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel; this day let it be known that Thou art God and I am Thy servant! And shew this people that Thou art Lord God; and let their hearts again be turned."

Excerpts from "Boris Godounoff" - - - - - Moussorgsky

The story of the opera takes place about 1600. Boris, the Regent of Russia, arranges the assassination of Dmitri, young brother of the incapacitated Czar, thus trying to gain the throne for himself. A young monk, upon hearing the story and believing himself to possess a physical likeness to the Prince, enlists the aid of Poland to usurp the Crown. Boris is torn between his lively conscience and the imminent loss of the throne, which he hoped to retain for his son.

After the Battle - - - - - Moussorgsky

"He met his end in a far-off land . . .
But his friends have conquer'd the foe: . . .
Alone and forgot on the field he lies low,
. . . Far away there in his native land
Mother and child at the window stand;
"When Father comes back, a cake I'll bake,
'Twill please, I know, My dear one. . ."
But he lies forgot and alone."

Hassidic Chant - - - - - arr. Engel

The Rabbi prays to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob that the burden of sorrow and suffering be lifted from Israel.

PAUL ROBESON

INTERVAL

Nocturne in B major - - - - - Chopin

Ballade in A flat - - - - -

LIONEL BOWMAN

NEGRO FOLK SONGS

I got a Home - - - - -

Ezekial saw de Wheel - - - - - arr. Lawrence Brown

Swing low, sweet chariot - - - - -

Joshua fit de Battle of Jericho - - - - -

PAUL ROBESON

HAROLD FIELDING

announces the Return of



Beniamino Gigli

by arrangement with

JACK HYLTON

TWENTY CONCERTS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

FEBRUARY, MARCH and APRIL, 1949

HAROLD FIELDING — FIELDING HOUSE — HAYMARKET — LONDON — S.W.1

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Soon after, he went abroad, and sensational reports of his successes came from London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Moscow and Leningrad.

Meanwhile, in London, Robeson was approached about playing the role Othello. He accepted, and in May, 1950, the production opened with Robeson in the role of Othello, Peggy Ashcroft as Desdemona, Dame Sybil Thorndike as Emilia, Maurice Brown as Iago, and Ralph Richardson as Rodrigo.

Robeson remained abroad for several years and did not return to America until 1959. In 1943 the Theatre Guild agreed with Robeson that the time was ripe for him to revive "Othello" on the American stage. The play was produced by Margaret Webster, who had been in the first-night audience of the London production, and presented in New York for a full season, followed by an equally full second season on the road, enjoying the extraordinary success of no empty seats for two years, and was a personal triumph for Robeson the actor.

Finishing his long run as Othello, Robeson sandwiched in a tour of Europe with Lawrence Brown (his pianist for nearly 25 years) appearing before enormous G.I. crowds in France and Germany.

The Robeson character is a many-faceted one. There is Robeson the actor, Robeson the thunder-throated bass, Robeson the athlete, Robeson the thinker. He speaks Russian, French, Italian, German, Spanish, and reads more than twenty other languages including Gaelic and Chinese.

Mrs. Paul Robeson is an author and lecturer on her own. A graduate of Columbia, she has written a book "African Journey," an account of a trip she took in 1959 with Paul Junr., then eight years old. Paul, now twenty, is as distinguished an athlete as was his father.

Robeson's present tour of the British Isles after an absence of ten years will be welcomed by those who remember the films in which he appeared, such as "Proud Valley," "Big Feller," "Song of Freedom," "Sanders of the River," and the unforgettable "Showboat" in which he immortalized the song which seems to exemplify so beautifully the music of his race — "Ole Man River."



LIONEL BOWMAN was born in a village near the famous diamond town of Kimberley, 28 years ago. He studied music at Cape Town and London, returning to South Africa in 1940, where he made extensive tours all over the Union. He came back to England in 1946 and was engaged by Harold Fielding to appear in concerts with Gigli, Tauber and Peter Dawson. He made a successful tour of America last year, where the graceful assurance of his performance was enthusiastically received.



LAURENCE BROWN, pianist and composer, has been accompanist for Paul Robeson so long that he is an indispensable part of a Robeson concert. He was born in Florida, and in early youth went to Boston and later London to study music. In 1925 he joined Robeson and has been with him ever since. Widely known for his research in negro music, Brown arranged many negro spirituals — some of which are synonymous with the name of Robeson, such as "Steal Away" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."



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HAROLD FIELDING presents
PAUL ROBESON
RECITAL TOUR

SPRING, 1949

Friday,	February 25	BIRMINGHAM	Town Hall	7.0
Sunday,	February 27	WOLVERHAMPTON	Civic Hall	3.0
		<i>(A Corporation of Wolverhampton Concert)</i>		
Wednesday,	March 2	BELFAST	Grosvenor Hall	8.0
Thursday,	March 3	BELFAST	Grosvenor Hall	8.0
Sunday,	March 6	CROYDON	Davis Theatre	3.0
Tuesday,	March 8	NEWCASTLE	City Hall	7.0
Thursday,	March 10	GLASGOW	St. Andrew's Hall	7.30
Wednesday,	March 16	SHEFFIELD	City Hall	7.0
		<i>(A Sheffield Philharmonic Society Concert)</i>		
Friday,	March 18	LONDON	Royal Albert Hall	7.30
Monday,	March 21	HULL	City Hall	Evening
Thursday,	March 24	LIVERPOOL	Philharmonic Hall	7.0
Sunday,	March 27	CARDIFF	Empire Theatre	8.0
Tuesday,	March 29	BRISTOL	Central Hall	Evening
		<i>(In association with Charles H. Lockier)</i>		
Sunday,	April 5	BRADFORD	New Victoria Cinema	2.15
Tuesday,	April 5	LEICESTER	De Montfort Hall	7.0
		<i>(A Corporation of Leicester Concert)</i>		
Thursday,	April 7	LONDON	Royal Albert Hall	7.30
Sunday,	April 10	BLACKPOOL	New Opera House	Evening
Tuesday,	April 12	MANCHESTER	Belle Vue	7.0

Details of remaining concerts will be announced in due course

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